(b) if so, by when the proposed Legislation is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Government have already enacted two legislations namely the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 for regulating the conditions of service and providing certain welfare measures to the building and other construction workers. The proposal of a Central legislation for agricultural workers is at the stage of considceration in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments and State Governments.

Plight of workers in Surat

†2366. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not a fact that about forty thousand workers of Murena and Bhind districts of Madhya Pradesh, who earn their livelihood in Surat city of Gujarat by cutting diamond, driving auto and drawing four wheel hand carts are being beaten up and driven off from there;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken against this forcible escape through mental, physical and econmic affliction; and

(c) the names of the persons involved in this kind of act and the authority which have given them such right and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) According to the report received from the State Government, no such complaints have been received by them. However, the State Government sent a team of officers recently to enquire into the allegations but they could not be substantiated.

It has further been reported that the interest of these workers are being taken care of by the State Government.

Placement of women officers on deputation

2367. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 83 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th February, 2000 and state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that de facto weeding takes place for placement of women officers of All India Services;

(b) whether there is any effort to ensure that women, SC and ST officers find placements on deputation jobs at higher levels viz. joint Secretary and above;

(c) to what extent the fairness doctrine is being implemented;

(d) whether Govenemnt would alert itself in this regard; and

(e) the steps proposed to ensure that weaker sections and women get placements at higher level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) The eligibility criteria for men, women and SC/ST officers to hold posts at the Centre are uniform, gender neutral and do not discriminate against women and SC/ST officers in any manner. Their placements at the Centre, however, depend upon the number of officers belonging to those categories available in the Services, their being spared for such placements by their respective cadre authorities, and their willingness for appointment under the Central Government, While inviting names of eligible and suitable officers for consideration for appointment on deputation at the Centre from the cadre authorities, it is expressly stated in the letter issued every year that the State Government/cadre authorities should sponsor sufficient names of women, and SC and ST officers so that adequate representation could be provided to them in posts under the Central Staffing Scheme.

Loyalty of Government Employees

†2368. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in manuals related to Governemnt employees, a Government employee is treated as a Government employee for twenty four hours;

(b) whether it is also a fact that loyalty of Government employees should

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.